



# School of Pharmacy Residents' Roar

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## Resident Editors

Paul Juang  
Ditina Raval  
Kristin Zerumsky

## Faculty Advisors

Kim Coley  
Amy Calabrese Donihi  
Sheel Patel  
Karen Steinmetz

## Contributors

Brianne Fairchild  
Jonathan Ference

The University of Pittsburgh is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution.



*Paul Juang, Bethany Fedutes-Henderson, Ditina Raval, Kristin Zerumsky, Christina Schober, Sheel Patel, Sue Skledar at the Residency Showcase at ASHP Midyear, December 2003*

## Residents Making a Difference

Paul Juang, Ditina Raval,  
& Kristin Zerumsky

During orientation, the residents are invited to volunteer at underserved clinics in the Pittsburgh area. This is an invaluable opportunity to not only “make a difference”, but to work on clinical and precepting skills.

At each clinic, pharmacists have the opportunity to work with physicians in evaluating patients and developing medication regimens. Their role also includes dispensing medications, administering flu and/or pneumococcal vaccines, performing glucose monitoring and pregnancy tests, and providing patient counseling. The medication supplies come from donations or are purchased through grants. Unfortunately, there is often a limited supply of both over-the-counter and prescription medications available. This makes the job of delivering the most appropriate patient care challenging.

Paul and Christina volunteered at two different medicine clinics during their residency year. Ditina, Kristin and Erika volunteered at the Women’s Center and Shelter of

Pittsburgh. Paul feels strongly that “the underserved clinic has provided the opportunity to utilize school and residency experiences to care for patients that do not have the capability to afford proper health care.” In addition, he enjoyed the opportunity to serve as a preceptor for 2nd-year pharmacy students who attended clinic with him.

Ditina also feels the experience was rewarding both professionally and personally. She feels that “no other experience can compare to when one of these patients comes to tell you how much your care has meant to them.” The experience has been rewarding for Kristin as well. She intends to continue participating in caring for the underserved throughout her career in hopes to assist in preventing inadequate care for patients who may not have adequate healthcare coverage.

All of the residents who participated in the underserved program agree that their volunteer experiences have been invaluable and hope that future residents will continue to serve in this capacity.

# Residents' Roar

## What's Next for Our Current Residents

### Cardiology

**Erika Felix-Getzik**  
Asst. Professor & Clinical  
Cardiology Specialist  
Mass. College of Pharmacy

### Critical Care

**Brian Watson**  
ICU Clinical Pharmacist  
Allegheny General Hospital

### Drug Information

**Shelby Corman**  
Pursuing a writing/research  
position

### Family Medicine

**Jonathan Ference**  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
University of Oklahoma  
College of Pharmacy

### Managed Care

**Julie Kuhn**  
Clinical Management  
Pharmacist  
Eckerd Health Service

### Oncology

**Beth Wise**  
Oncology Clinical Pharmacist  
Wake Forest University  
Baptist Hospital

**Stephanie Conley**  
Pursuing a clinical  
oncology position

### Pharmacy Practice (UPMC)

**Paul Juang**  
Critical Care Resident  
University of Colorado  
Health Sciences Center

**Ditina Raval**  
Primary Care Resident  
National Institutes of Health

**Kristin Zerumsky**  
Cardiology Resident UPMC

### Pharmacy Practice (VA)

**Mike Korczynski**  
Internal Medicine Pharmacist  
Allegheny General Hospital

**Brianne Fairchild**  
Pursuing a clinical position  
in North Carolina

**Ashley Jenkins**  
Clinical Management  
Pharmacist  
Eckerd Health Service

### Primary Care

**Christina Schober**  
Clinical Pharmacist  
Harbor Hospital in Maryland

## Faculty & Resident Alum Updates

**Patricia Dowley Kroboth** (Professor) was appointed Dean, University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, effective May 1, 2004.

**Ted Rice** (Associate Professor) has been recently recognized as a Fellow of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

**Matthew Blommel** (PP 01-02) was appointed Clinical Assistant Professor and Assistant Director of the West Virginia Center for Drug and Health Information in October 2003.

**Emily (Wade) Castelli** (PP 99-00; Crit Care 00-01) and her husband are moving to Bowling Green, KY in July. She will be working at "The Medical Center", and part of her role will be to establish a pharmacy residency program.

**Nicole Ansani** (DI 98-99) is now working for Pfizer as a clinical education consultant.

**Bethany Fedutes-Henderson** (DI 02-03) was appointed Interim Director of the University of Pittsburgh DI Center in May 2004.

**Emily (Wade) Castelli** (PP 99-00; Crit Care 00-01), **Kim Corpus** (PP 01-02), and **Justine (Schuller) Gortney** (PP 99-00) passed the BCPS exam in 2003.

**Damary Castanheira** (Oncology 98-99) and **Daisy Chung** (PP 99-00) passed the BCOP exam in 2003.

**Jennifer Stoffel** (Crit Care 95) recently completed the BCPS recertification process.

## Congratulations

**Erika Felix-Getzik** received an industry-sponsored research grant from Kos Pharmaceuticals for her residency research project.

**Kristin Zerumsky** was accepted to participate in the ACCP Heart Failure Traineeship Program at MUSC to be completed during her cardiology specialty residency.

**Kristin Zerumsky, Ditina Raval and Paul Juang** won third place at the PSHP Midyear Meeting Poster Session entitled "Pharmacy Practice Residency Programs: Fulfillment of the ASHP Practice Management Goals and Objectives".

**Julie Kuhn** was married to Patrick Legal on May 8, 2004.

**Mike Korczynski** was married to Megan Farrell on August 16, 2003.

**Ed Horn** (Crit Care 00-01) was engaged to Paula Biscup (also a University of Pittsburgh graduate) in April. The two plan to wed in September 2005.

**Laura Jung** (Oncology 99-00) had a baby boy, Ethan Daehan Jung, in Dec. 2003. In June, Laura and her family will be moving to North Carolina.

Did you know that at least 5 Pitt resident alums are expecting newborns in the summer of 2004? Stay tuned for the full details regarding the future resident class of 2028-2029!



*Erika Felix-Getzik, Brian Watson, Ditina Raval, Beth Wise at Emeril's Restaurant, New Orleans. December 2003*

# Residents' Roar

## Incoming Resident Class of 2004-2005

### Cardiology

**Kristin Zerumsky**  
University of the Sciences  
in Philadelphia  
PPR: UPMC

### Critical Care

**Neal Benedict**  
Duquesne University  
PPR: Kaleida Health,  
Buffalo, NY

### Drug Information

**Suzanna Gim**  
University of Maryland

### Family Medicine

**Heather Kudis**  
Duquesne University

### Infectious Diseases

**Bonnie Falcione**  
Duquesne University  
CCR: Allegheny General

### Managed Care

**Brad Robinson**  
Massachusetts College of  
Pharmacy & Health Sciences

### PharmacyPractice (UPMC)

**Brian Miller**  
Duquesne University

**Timothy George**  
West Virginia University

**Cory Murray**  
Duquesne University

### Pharmacy Practice (VA)

**Maria Pfeiffer**  
University of Missouri  
Kansas City

**Gemilee Bustamante**  
Midwestern University

**Molly Englert**  
West Virginia University



*Brienne Fairchild, Ashley Jenkins, Shelby Corman, Mike Korczynski at Eastern States Conference, Baltimore, MD; May 7, 2004*

## Silver Scripts

Jonathan Ference

**S**ilver Scripts is a new program where P1 pharmacy students, paired with University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy faculty, travel to senior centers in the area to provide medication counseling on site. This is one of several ways that the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy reaches out and gives back to communities in Pittsburgh. Silver Scripts also offers a valuable teaching experience for the P1 students by providing an introduction to patient care and professionalism. During this inaugural year, two pharmacy residents, Christina Schober and Jonathan Ference, participated as mentors for the program.

Jonathan and one of his P1 student groups visited seniors at the Stephen Foster Senior Center in Lawrenceville. The center offers many programs for seniors, including tai chi, cardiac rehabilitation exercise sessions, and an onsite wood shop. It also has an adult day care program for seniors with Alzheimer's Disease. During their first visit to the center, the group interviewed several seniors and advised them on issues ranging from timing of medication doses to prescription insurance issues. After the first session, one student said, "This experience truly made me feel as if I was on my way to becoming a pharmacist."

At the second visit, a scheduling error with the "well seniors" resulted in an opportunity for the pharmacy resident and students to interact with the patients with Alzheimer's Disease. The group learned that although they would not be providing pharmaceutical care in the traditional sense, they would experience patient interactions that were just as important and rewarding. The group spent the morning speaking with seniors and participating in their group exercise session. The highlight of the morning was a rousing game of ring toss: the seniors versus the "white coats." The students lost by three points, but when it was time to say goodbye there was a smile on every face. Afterwards one student said, "I now have a greater appreciation for how difficult their lives are. We weren't able to provide pharmaceutical care in the form of drug therapy identification to this particular community, but we hopefully touched their lives in a different way."

## Recent Publications

**Corman SL** (DI 03-04), **Skledar SJ**, **Ansani NT** (DI 98-99). Low-dose granisetron for postoperative nausea and vomiting prophylaxis. *Ann Pharmacother* 2004; 38:710-3.

**Coons JC** (Card 02-03), **Shullo M** (PP 97-98), **Schonder K** (Amb Care 97-98), **Kormos R**. Terbutaline for chronotropic support in heart transplantation. *Ann Pharmacother* 2004; 38:586-9.

**Dix J** (PP 01-02), **Weber RJ**, **Frye RF**, **Nolin TD**, **Mrvos R**, **Krenzelok E**. Stability of atropine sulfate prepared for mass chemical terrorism. *J Toxicol Clin Toxicol* 2003;41:771-5.

**Fairchild B** (PP 03-04), **Terpening C**. New hypertension trials: what do the results mean for the elderly? *Consultant Pharmacist* 2004;19:69-72.

**Peng CC** (PP 00-01), **Glassman PA**, **Trilli LE** (PP 92-93), **Hayes-Hunter J**, **Good CB**. Incidence and severity of potential drug-dietary supplement interactions in primary care patients: an exploratory study of 2 outpatient practices. *Arch Intern Med* 2004;164:630-6.

**Peng CC** (PP 00-01), **Glassman PA**, **Marks IR** (Managed Care 01-02), **Fowler C**, **Castiglione B** (Managed Care 97-98), **Good CB**. Retrospective drug utilization review: incidence of clinically relevant potential drug-drug interactions in a large ambulatory population. *J Manag Care Pharm* 2003;9:513-22.

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## Important Dates

Eastern States Residency Conference	May 6-8
ASHP Accreditation Survey for UPMC	May 26-28
End of the Year Residency Banquet	June 24
New Resident Class Begins	July 1

## Contact Us

Please send news and/or address changes to

Kathy Woodburn  
304 Scaife Hall  
200 Lothrop Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
**woodburnkm@upmc.edu**

## A "GEM" of an Experience

Brianne Fairchild

One of the unique opportunities I have had as a pharmacy practice resident at the VA was being involved with the interdisciplinary outpatient Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) clinic every Tuesday and Thursday. While working in this clinic, I participated in the assessment and treatment of veterans 65 years or older with dementia, memory problems, depression, mobility issues, noncompliance and polypharmacy.

The pharmacist's role at the GEM clinic is to screen patients for potential age-related changes that affect medication adherence, make drug therapy recommendations to avoid or minimize adverse outcomes, and provide patient and caregiver education on medications. The pharmacist actually helps improve medication adherence by reducing the number of medications, simplifying dosage schedules, clarifying written and verbal instructions, using non-safety caps on prescription bottles, and teaching patients how to use pill boxes.

There have been many memorable moments with individual patients at GEM clinic. Overall, it has been an honor to help care for our nation's heroes and pursue excellence in "serving those who served".



Department of Pharmacy & Therapeutics  
304 Scaife Hall  
200 Lothrop Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213